

AUDUBON MAGAZINE

The Season

Formerly BIRD-LORE



SECTION II

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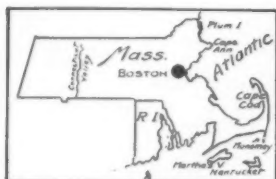
The Season

CXLIII. October 1, 1942
to February 1, 1943



BOSTON REGION

October and November were warm, mild and pleasant months. No hard frost occurred in October (Boston). A sudden



cold wave November 14-15, produced winter conditions as regards land birds for most of

New England. There were no storms or sudden extremes of temperature. Birding was dull and uneventful in October, the month not producing a real rarity anywhere in New England. The early departures of August and September were checked. The winter birds tended to arrive late, especially the seafoal and numerous cases of straggling land-bird lingers established record dates for local areas and even states. No less than 22 species of warblers were reported in October in Massachusetts and 8 in early November.

Numbers of most birds were disappointingly small, due chiefly to the mild and unvariegated weather. The hawk flight was notably poor. The duck flight was on the whole very disappointing, particularly the green-winged teal and ring-necked duck. Off Monomoy, the concentration of scoters and old-squaws was only 10% of normal and lasted a very short time. On the other hand, the gathering of eiders reached 45,000 by late November,

nearly double the number in the last ten years. For the first time, harlequin ducks were noted, flying south behind lines of scoters, 3 on November 5 and 1 on the 22nd. Where were they going? A flock of 14 greater snow geese on November 22 was also notable. The great event in this group of birds, however, was the great flight of ruddies, recalling the numbers of seventy-five years ago.

The only bird to show a catastrophic decrease was the Wilson's snipe, on the danger list since 1940. I know of only 9 birds reported from Massachusetts by all observers combined! Five years ago I would have taken 30-50 for granted as my personal quota in incidental birding, without hunting the species particularly. To the great disappointment of all, the European black-headed gull failed to show up at Newburyport.

Outstanding fall records were a western gull in second year plumage at West Newbury on November 11 with herring and great black-backed gulls (Curtis, Griscom) that, unfortunately could not be collected properly to validate the first occurrence on the Atlantic seaboard. A scissor-tailed flycatcher on Martha's Vineyard, November 4-9 (Leigh).

The winter had been extraordinary, both meteorologically and ornithologically. December was bitterly cold, with much below zero weather, with an historic cold wave on the 20th, producing conditions only once previously recorded in 1875. The late arriving winter land and sea birds rushed south in a hurry, leaving

an almost birdless country behind them, in which everything except the open ocean froze solid. January was again very cold; while no extreme temperatures were recorded, the thermometer reached zero or below on several occasions. The scarcity of bird life was much more apparent on Cape Cod, which ordinarily enjoys a milder winter climate than Boston. The disappearance of 90% of the starlings was one outstanding event; another was the topsy-turvy distribution of the black-backed gull; ordinarily 10-20 (Cape Ann) to 1 (outer Cape), this condition was exactly reversed.

The past winter should convince people that bitter cold winters have little to do with driving northern birds south. The irregular winter visitors are the focus of interest at this season. Usually some of them show up, a different combination each year. Very rarely the majority of them show up in one year in some numbers. It is especially rare to have a winter when none of them appear in numbers. Such a winter was 1942-1943. Barring a few snowy owls in late November and early December, and an occasional goshawk, we have had to be content with unusual numbers of blue jays and juncos. Alcidae (practically none), white-winged gulls (hardly any); barring a few stragglers, no grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls, siskins, shrikes, and red-breasted nuthatches. Out of 20 possible species in this list, the majority of observers have not seen even stray individuals of five.

Notable records: Two tufted titmice wintering at East Norwalk, Conn., 1 at Northampton, Mass., November 26-January 2. Several cardinals in Connecticut and 1 at Providence, R. I. A Richardson's owl in Topsfield, December 20 (Griscom, *et al.*). A hawk owl at Winterport, Me., December 11 (Mendall). A golden eagle at Chatham, December 27 (Scott, Griscom), another on January 30 at Waterford, Conn. (Stoddard). A black gyrfalcon at Cape Ann in early January (Bailey). Gannets paid no attention to the weather, 1 lingered off Plum Island on January 3 and 21 adults were off Provincetown on January 1. A turnstone at North Chatham, January 1, had survived seemingly impossible conditions (Mrs. Kellogg, Griscom). —LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

NEW YORK REGION

The weather during the first half of this period was abnormally warm, the daily mean temperature for October being 2.5°



above normal, with a marked deficiency in rainfall, and with prevailing light north-east winds.

November showed similar above-normal temperatures, but the precipitation was heavy, sixteen days with some rain, wind above normal, northwest. Temperatures were subnormal for the first three weeks in December, with a cold wave on the 20th, temperatures ranging from 10 to 15 degrees below zero in the suburbs (−3° in the city). Precipitation above normal, with ground snow-covered in many parts of the area after the 10th. There were no cold waves in January, and the temperatures averaged about normal. There were fairly heavy snows toward the end of the month.

As far as can be determined (restricted observation) the fall flight of water birds was about normal. Canvas-backs and red-heads were rather rare throughout the region; scoters, too, were subnormal. Ring-necks, ruddy ducks and hooded mergansers at times were locally abundant. The cold wave of late December sealed the inland waters, forcing the ducks to leave.

This same period of low temperatures seems to have caused a change in the locale of the wintering great blue herons on Long Island. It is reported, by Elliott, that this bird is frequently found wintering along the north shore of Long Island, but that it is normally very rare on the south shore at that season. Since December, however, it has practically disappeared from the north shore and appeared in numbers on the south side of the Island, 30 being counted in four areas. It is probable that ice and snow have driven them from their former habitat.

Since the subzero weather in December, a marked decrease has been observed in land birds. On Long Island many of these birds, usually fairly common, have become rare, especially golden-crowned king-

lets, juncos, song and tree sparrows (El-liott). In Westchester county, it is reported (Bull) that chickadeers, white-breasted nuthatches, goldc. crowned kinglets and brown creepers were numerous up to December 20, but since then have practically disappeared. The tufted titmouse, not long ago a very unusual bird in Westchester County, has been increasing in numbers (of late) but since the cold weather it has again become rare.

This winter there is almost an entire lack of northern finches, a few scattered reports from Long Island are all that have been found. Kingfishers, however, seem to be wintering here in numbers that would be unusually large even in mild winters. Reports of their occurrence come from all sections of the region.

Following are some of the more interesting occurrences in the region during this period: the double-crested cormorant is an extremely rare bird on the freshwater ponds of northern New Jersey. One was reported, however, on Franklin Lake in Bergen County, October 6 to 11 (Hufschmid). Some records from Orient, L. I., are, a green heron until December 10, a snow goose on January 8, 2 harlequin ducks on December 15, and a broad-winged hawk on January 1 (Latham). An osprey at Rye on November 22 is late (Bull, Herbert, Oboiko) as is a Florida gallinule at Tuckahoe, October 12 (Bull).

From year to year the numbers of purple sandpipers seem to increase in western Long Island Sound. This year, 30 are reported at Rye on January 3 (Bull). At Moriches, a marbled godwit was seen on November 19 (Wilcox), a new late date for the region. Few, if any, white-winged gulls have been reported and very few Alcidae. There has been no flight of snowy owls this winter, only a few were seen. Horned larks have been numerous on Long Island, particularly at the eastern end. One brown-capped chickadee was reported from Port Chester on December 20 (Spofford).

Despite the severe weather, robins have been noted in some numbers from different sections. They seem to have vanished for a short time after the period of lowest temperatures but reappeared at their usual haunts in about two weeks.

Reports of increasing numbers of cardi-

nals are made for Westchester County (Bull) and for northern New Jersey (Hufschmid). This slow increase has been noted over a period of several years. On December 20, at Croton-on-Hudson, 14 were seen in a 2-mile walk. This is an unprecedented number for so small an area in Westchester County. Recent New Jersey records show similar increases.

The Lapland longspur is a rare visitor on the Westchester shore of the Sound but I was seen at Rye, on January 31, in a small flock of snow buntings (Bull).—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

CAROLINA REGION

Precipitation at Raleigh about normal; at Columbia below normal in October-November and normal in January-February;



but Charleston was dry with deficiency of 3 inches for the period. Temper-

ature about normal, a little cooler than last two years; no snow.

Coastal Area—Santee National Wildlife Refuge of Manning, S. C., with Don Gray as manager, is added to our reports by E. B. Chamberlain; cited as "Santee-Cooper." Here, on October 23, arrived: baldpate, pintail, ruddy, scaup, ring-neck, and blue-winged teal; Canada geese on the 27th, with black and shovellers on the 29th. Pea Island had baldpate, pintail, and shoveller by mid-September, with blue-winged teal last recorded there a month before showing up at Santee-Cooper, and did not have ring-neck and scaup till November. Canada and snow geese appeared in usual numbers, though South Carolina had none of the snow geese; Pea Island had a few blue and 2 white-fronted geese. Brant at Pea Island more numerous than for some years, even without aerial survey of the Sound. Waterfowl on the whole fairly good. The following from the coastal area are all from Charleston (Chamberlain)—departures: ruby-throated hummingbird, Octo-

ber 3, within week of normal end of stay; red-eyed vireo and painted bunting on 4th, nighthawk on 8th, indigo bunting on 11th; all about two weeks early. Swifts remained through October 25 (four days later than 1941); black and white warblers left October 25, average, an occasional bird is seen in winter—1 on December 15 (Sprunt). Transients: tree swallows, last November, 1 (usually occasional or better in winter, only 5 noted at Lake Mattamuskeet, December 26); redstarts on October 25; bobolink, October 18; both normal. On October 18, A. R. Phillips made unusual records by collecting a magnolia and a Tennessee warbler. South Carolina has had but six coastal records for the magnolia (prior latest October 14) while the Tennessee has not been previously recorded from the coast, known only as a transient in the Piedmont. Arrivals that were late included: house wren, pipit, meadowlarks in flocks, vesper sparrow, winter wren, waxwing, hermit thrush, and red-throated loon. Catbirds at Charleston were unusually scarce and robins unusually abundant; myrtle warblers were spotty in distribution. Dry weather may have been the cause. Unusual was an immature gannet picked up on October 19; a long-billed curlew (Sprunt) November 21, 28, and December 4; an avocet and marbled godwits at Bull's Island throughout December. Most unusual were 4 doves seen on Santee River, December 10 (1 collected, Fred Welman, Edward Manigault). The collected bird was very thin, stomach empty. October 9, G. R. Lunz, Jr., reported a performance (courtship?) by 2 bald eagles over Bullyard Sound, that was similar to that reported for *The Season* by E. B. Chamberlain, Jr., August-October, 1940.

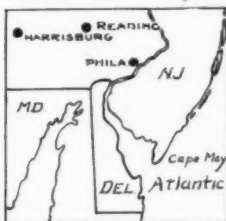
Interior Area—Lasts of usual dates at Raleigh: redstart, October 3; wood pewee, 4th; olive-backed thrush found dead, 6th; nighthawk, 16th; swift, 18th; catbird, 25th; lesser yellow-legs, 30th; and osprey, November 14. Cape May warblers on October 18 of particular interest. Lasts at Columbia, S. C. (Mrs. Charles): yellowthroats on October 4; catbird, 6th, with second January record made this year; wood thrush, 9th; redstart, 10th (usually seen on coast till end of month); white-eyed vireo, November 19, still singing. A late breeding record is bob-white with

young that "could fly some" October 24. Species not reported from interior of South Carolina in October-November this year: palm warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, shrike, Louisiana water-thrush, black-throated blue warbler, red-eyed vireo, black and white warbler, swamp sparrow, and woodcock. Absent in January-February but present last year: purple finch, Bewick's wren, red-headed woodpecker, swamp sparrow, Wilson's snipe, and woodcock. Present in December-January but absent last year: catbird, chipping sparrow, hairy woodpecker, red-wing, and titmouse. Scarcity of purple finch is noted for whole region throughout period.

Mountain Area—Mrs. Grinnell at Arden, N. C., reports Tennessee warblers, October 7; black and white till 22nd; brown thrasher to November 3; and mountain vireo till 6th. Pine siskins were noted October 20 and also on the Christmas Count for the Smoky Mountains (Stupka). Arden had purple finches, October and January, and white-crowned sparrows, November 3. Tree sparrows appeared at the same places as last year, 4 birds, November 23 and December 26. Bicknell's thrush picked up at Tryon (Holmes) October 19; Cape May warblers "common" at Black Mountain, October 16 (Grace Anderson); Bewick's wren noted singing at Greenwood, S. C., October 24 (Williams).—C. S. BRIMLEY, 515 Washington Ave., and JOHN H. GREY, JR., 2718 Vanderbilt Ave., Raleigh, N. C.

PHILADELPHIA REGION

Weather conditions during the late fall and winter months deviated little from normal. Zero temperature on December



20 and 21, was a surprise cold snap which brought human discomfort and sent ducks scurrying southward. On December 19, the day before the very cold weather, large flocks of ducks, blacks and pintails, with several hundred American mergansers, were observed by Moore, as they flew south over Delaware River at Riverton, N. J. They had apparently

sensed the oncoming cold weather!

A wildfowl count, made along the Delaware River from Paulsboro, N. J., south to Salem, N. J., November 22, resulted as follows: black duck, 15,000; mallard, 10; green-winged teal, 2000; pintail, 5000; baldpate, 6; American merganser, 6; ruddy duck, 100; scaup, 50; coot, 130. On November 29, several ring-necked ducks were seen near Salem, N. J. (Coman). On January 24, Bridgeboro, N. J., Haines found 5000 pintails and 5 ring-necked ducks. On November 29, at Martha, N. J., in the Pine Barrens, Jacobs observed 7 hooded mergansers, 6 females and 1 male.

Philadelphia, Pa., November 13, 1 orange-crowned warbler (Curry); Moorestown, N. J., January 24, 1 orange-crowned warbler (Haines); Sewell, N. J., October 1, 1 orange-crowned warbler trapped (Batezel). These records indicate an unusual number of orange-crowned warblers present this fall and winter.

An outstanding record—A note from Barton L. Sharp of Lititz, Pa., on November 22, read in part as follows: "Martin Stapleton called me on the telephone today and asked if the scissor-tailed flycatcher was a rare bird in Lancaster County, Pa. He and several boys had seen one about 2 miles east of Lititz. I arrived on the spot about 10 minutes later and found it perched in an apple tree. It was the most beautiful bird I had ever seen." Some time later an interested person collected the bird and it is now in the Reading Museum. It is reported to be the first record for the state of Pennsylvania.

An unusual number of robins, bluebirds, and cedar waxwings were present in this section throughout January. A good crop of berries induced the birds to stay about the countryside.

Other records of interest—Wissahickon, Pa., November 7, chestnut-sided warbler, 1 (Parry); Forty Fort, Pa., October 12, nighthawk, 1; Ashley, Pa., October 27, cardinal, unusual for this area (Tracy); Sewell, N. J., October 2, 1 Tennessee warbler and 1 Nashville warbler trapped (Batezel); Haddonfield, N. J., November 16, nighthawk, 2 (Middleton); Penn Manor, Pa., October 25, European cormorant, 1 found dead, identification made by count of tail feathers which numbered 14 (Wright); Riverton, N. J., October 25, mockingbird, 3, 2 singing (E. and H.

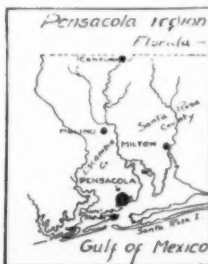
Moore); Addingham, Pa., November 13, coot, 1 (Culver); Salem, N. J., November 22, Wilson's snipe, 11, darting about in a flock (Coman, Potter); Pine Valley, N. J., October 17, Canada goose, 3 flocks, 23, 30, 70, flying over (Potter); Sea Island City, N. J., November 15, snow goose, 130, flying over (Moore); Cape May, N. J., November 15, Arkansas kingbird, 3; hooded merganser, 6; October 25, white-crowned sparrow, 1; Island Beach, N. J., January 1, kittiwake, 1 dead; dovekie, 22 dead, 1 alive; Ipswich sparrow, 4; January 10, Holboell's grebe, 1 dead; January 31, razor-billed auk, 1 dead; brant, 500, flock in flight; Wissahickon, Pa., January 24, long-eared owl, 2 (E. Y. and Q. Kramer).—JULIAN K. POTTER, 437 Park Avenue, Collingswood, N. J.

PENSACOLA (FLA.) REGION

This entire double period has been above normal in temperature and far below normal in rainfall (90% deficiency in November alone). The first light frost reached down to the coast on November 24, and the first "window-pane" ice on December 17. January 20 brought a hard freeze, with temperatures down to 26° on the coast and lower in the interior.

Small bird life has shown progressive recovery from the effects of the killing freeze of January, 1940, but several species are still far below their former abundance. Of the species mentioned at this time last year, bluebird, robin, and killdeer seem to have regained their former abundance; phoebe, western palm and yellow palm warblers are reasonably common, though the warblers are still far below their tremendous abundance of other years; mourning dove, common through October, then rare; Wilson's snipe and hermit thrush, still definitely rare. Inexplicable to me is the continued extreme rarity of the savannah sparrow. Formerly our most abundant sparrow, I have not seen 20 birds so far this winter!

The duck and goose migration was



long-drawn and straggling. It went largely unobserved. Probably the main cause of this irregularity was the prevalence of late warm weather farther north, but the tremendous recent increase in aviation training activity along much of this coast, is undoubtedly a disturbing factor. Hunters' activities this winter have been sharply curtailed by gasoline rationing as well as by Coast Guard restrictions and my usual reports from that source are lacking. Altogether, I am unable to make a comparison of the abundance of this season's flight with those of recent years. In accessible areas near the City, lesser scaup seems to be increasing in numbers, but this apparent increase may be purely local and may not apply throughout the region. Red-breasted mergansers are as abundant as ever. The first ruddy duck (very rare) was brought in on October 23, having been caught in a cast net; hooded merganser (rare) was first seen on November 22; golden-eye, November 29.

Of other fall migrants, 5 species appeared earlier than ever before recorded: myrtle warbler (3) October 11; grasshopper sparrow (rare, fresh specimen found by J. D. Carroll on October 13; golden-crowned kinglet, October 17 (A. C. Sheppard); slate-colored junco (very rare), October 31; goldfinch, November 11 (Mrs. A. L. Whigham). Other early (though not earliest) arrival dates are: house wren, October 4; double-crested cormorant, October 7; ruby-crowned kinglet, October 9 (Miss L. Pate); yellow-bellied sapsucker, October 11 (Mrs. Whigham); swamp sparrow, October 13; white-throated sparrow, October 15 (Mrs. Whigham); brown creeper, October 18; robin and song sparrow (rare), November 1; cedar waxwing, November 15. The brown creeper, an irregular winter resident, is present in some numbers again this season and 1 or 2 are seen on almost every field trip. The cedar waxwing, usually rare until mid-January, became common before Christmas. By mid-January, they were abundant, and a summation of flock estimates, on January 31, yielded a total of 1450 birds for the day. Bonaparte's gull, an irregular winter resident, is common for the first time in several years. The long-billed curlew, reported in the preceding period, was still present on October 4. The only bay-breasted warbler of the season was re-

ported on October 17 (Sheppard); the only scarlet tanager was seen on October 18.

Three departing migrants tarried a day or two longer than ever before recorded: crested flycatcher, October 4; hooded warbler, October 25; wood thrush, November 1. Other late (though not latest) departure dates are: parula warbler, October 11 (Mrs. Whigham); pectoral sandpiper and rose-breasted grosbeak, October 18; magnolia warbler and redstart, October 25; wood pewee, October 31; lesser yellow-legs, barn swallow and black-throated green warbler, November 1; ruby-throated hummingbird, November 3 (Mrs. Whigham).

Observed nesting activity was limited to a single species, the bald eagle. Well-grown young birds were seen in both of the only 2 nests under observation, January 24.

The song period of several species continued later than usual, perhaps because of the mild, dry weather. Blue-gray gnatcatcher and towhee were heard on October 11; house wrens were common and in full song (more than usual) and pine warbler was heard occasionally on October 18; white-eyed vireo sang regularly up to November 1 and mockingbird up to November 8. The Carolina wren was heard, of course, throughout the period.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 East Jordan Street, Pensacola, Fla.

OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION

October and November, mild and cloudy, brought no reports of heavy flights of migrant land birds. The fall weather

permitted many hardier individuals to linger into early December, when a cold wave of sustained severity gave the first twenty days of the month an average temperature 10° below normal. During this time, precipitation,



which in much of this region normally would have fallen as rain, came as snow. Most migrant land and water birds moved on rapidly, but with seeds and berries abundant, conditions appeared good for survival of winter residents. The last third of December was unusually warm, and then January returned approximately to normal in temperature and precipitation.

Water and marsh birds—The fall flight of ducks was excellent and included an encouraging number of ruddies, canvasbacks, and red-heads. However, great numbers of dabblers appeared in late November and moved through hurriedly when the December cold wave froze the marshes, bays, and smaller lakes. Hunting clubs explained this delayed movement by the report that feeding conditions remained good unusually late farther north.

The annual count of wintering ducks in Ohio showed 47,864; 54% blacks and 24% mallards. Also counted were more than 1474 Canada geese.

Other interesting notes for the period include 20 gadwall from late December through January near Augusta, Michigan (Pirnie); old-squaw first seen January 22 and still present February 1 at Columbus (Thomas); ruddy duck at Cincinnati, January 16 (Maslowski); 2 blue geese at Oxford, O., November 7 (Mattox); red-throated loon at Wall Lake, Barry County, Mich., October 25 and November 6 (Pirnie); and Holboell's grebe near Youngstown, November 15 and 29 (Cook).

Great blue herons in December and January are reported from a number of points in northern Ohio and southern Michigan. An American bittern remained in Monroe County, Mich., as late as December 6, and 2 black-crowned night herons were seen in the same place, January 9.

Sandhill cranes showed well in Michigan again. Near Waterloo in Jackson County 48 were seen on October 17 (Douglass).

Land Birds—Ruffed grouse are believed to be near their peak in abundance at most localities in Michigan, and 4 birds were seen in new territory near Oxford, O., January 15 (Boesch, Mattox). Sharp-tailed grouse also appear to be increasing and spreading in Michigan (Douglass).

Mourning doves wintered in unusual numbers in many localities of Ohio and southern Michigan. Although red-headed woodpeckers generally seemed scarcer than usual, 1 appeared on January 9, at Marne, Mich., where they are rare at any time (Baker). More evidence that pileated woodpeckers are extending their range westward in Ohio, from the Appalachian plateau, is supplied by the occurrence of the first at Bounds' Woods near Buckeye Lake, January 24 (Thomas).

Although there are some reports of snowy owls in Ohio and Michigan, they are much fewer than last year.

In contrast with the unprecedented abundance of chickadees last year, their numbers have dropped back to normal or lower throughout the region. Banders in the Lansing district remark an almost complete absence of the main pre-December migratory flight (Kreag).

Mockingbirds, in December and January, are reported from Columbus, 5 (Thomas); Dayton (Blincoe), and Toledo; catbirds at Buckeye Lake and Dayton; brown thrasher at Buckeye Lake and Cincinnati; bluebird through winter at Leetonia, O. (Stewart). Several observers report fewer starlings than usual in their localities.

Myrtle warblers, rare in winter, have been seen at Cuyahoga Falls, O., January 2 (G. A. Smith) and near Toledo in Monroe County, Mich., December 19. At this latter place, a Tennessee warbler was collected November 7 and a yellow-throat November 29, both much later than any previous records.

Observers in the Midwest are reminded once more that juncos should be watched closely for western forms; at Oxford, O., 2 Oregon juncos (subsp.?) were found January 7 to 25 (Mattox, Hefner), and 1 at Toledo, December 6 (Campbell).

This winter brought few unusual observations of northern visitors of the finch family. But 6 red crossbills were seen at Toledo, January 5 (Brandenberg), and 8 white-winged crossbills at Youngstown, January 18 (Northrup, Cook); pine siskins at Oxford, O., in the last week of October (Mattox); and 5000 snow buntings in one field near Toledo, ten times the greatest number ever previously noted here at one time (Stearns). Flocks of 20-25 evening grosbeaks have been seen repeat-

edly near Atlanta, Mich., feeding on box elder seeds.

Towhees wintered at Ashland, O., (Kahl), at Akron (G. A. Smith), at Marne, Mich. (Baker), and in Monroe County, Mich., near Toledo. At Cincinnati 3 white-crowned sparrows were banded at one station (Maslowski).—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

CHICAGO REGION

October was very warm and sunny, with a six-day cold snap starting on the 21st; very little rain and only one windy day, the 30th. The temperature continued above normal through November 25, hitting 72° on November 19. Precipitation was 1.14 inches above normal. Freezing weather

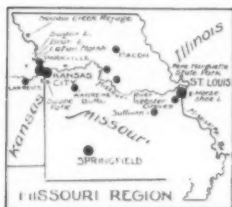
arrived suddenly on November 26, with a sharp drop to 18° reaching -2° on December 3, and Chicago had its longest stretch of sustained very cold weather in many years. Outside of seven days in the high thirties, starting December 26, there were only three scattered days from November 26 through January 31 when the temperature rose above freezing. In spite of this record cold, the usual number of winter residents and winter accidentals has been reported.

Among the 3 loons seen this fall was a completely black one observed by Dreuth off Lincoln Park on November 2, which he took to be either melanistic or dyed by some chemical in waters near a factory. Holboell's grebe, seen at Miller, Ind., in September, was there again on November 18, the only records of this uncommon winter visitor in the last three years. Horned grebes increased greatly this year over last. The only 2 egrets were reported at Wolf Road, by Verna Johnston during October. Three blue and 6 snow geese were found on October 3, near the highway between Zion City and Belvidere by Mrs. Leta D. McMaster, and Erffmeyer counted 80 snow geese flying low against a strong wind at Naperville

on November 6. Most ducks were plentiful inland but scarcer than usual on the southern end of Lake Michigan. Wood ducks and ruddies have increased noticeably, and C. O. Palmquist identified a large flock of greater scaup off Waukegan on December 22. Of special interest is the C.O.S. report from Morton Arboretum on December 13, of a Krider's hawk, accidental in this region, the only previous record being one taken in Lake County in 1875. Plovers and turnstones appeared only in Lincoln Park, including a late black-bellied plover and a very late ruddy turnstone, both November 1 (Dreuth). Late records: 3 greater yellow-legs, October 23, Lincoln Park (Dreuth); a peccatorial sandpiper, October 18, very late (Orland Slough, Verna Johnston and C.O.S. independently); least sandpiper, October 7, Lincoln Park (Dreuth). Gulls, though present on every report, were all in small numbers this year, and Dreuth saw another Franklin's gull, October 19, Lincoln Park. Mrs. McMasters reports 2 Caspian terns, October 3, Delaven, Wis. Of interest also: a great horned owl and a saw-whet owl, January 23, Morton Arboretum, the latter a rare winter visitant reported last year in Oak Hill Cemetery by Mrs. Baldwin; a female flicker on the Des Plaines River at Lake Street, January 26 (Palmquist); the only red-bellied woodpecker at Kankakee, October 31 (Rossman); a meadowlark at Highland Park, January 15 (Palmquist). Raymond Grow has been observing large numbers of redwings throughout the fall and winter, that he believes to be the common variety. Six cowbirds were seen on November 26 at McGinnis Slough (Erffmeyer); and 3 bronzed grackles, December 22 at Waukegan (Palmquist). A flock of 25-30 pine siskins seems to be wintering in Morton Arboretum, where there were 40 last year, and 2 of last year's 6 red crossbills are there, too. Nelson's sparrow is a rare sight in this region, and Dreuth was fortunate in observing 1 at close range in Lincoln Park, October 21, the first record in 3 years. Snow buntings were seen in Lincoln Park, November 2 (Dreuth), at the Indiana dunes on November 15 (C.O.S.), and at Miller, November 18 (Grow), in numbers from 1 to 6 instead of the 25-30 seen together in other years.—ELLEN T. SMITH, Lake Forest, Ill.

MISSOURI REGION

Extremes of high and low temperatures have been frequent during the period, although the average temperature for each



month was not far from normal. Precipitation was rather high during the first part and slightly below normal toward the close. A heavy snow the first week of December, and cold weather the first three weeks of that month may explain the reduced numbers of some seed-eaters. January was rather mild except for a sudden drop to -13° on the 19th.

The southward movement of waterfowl increased during October and reached a high on Quivera Lake, October 25, when about 2000 ducks of 11 species were on the lake. The lesser scaup led in numbers this year, with the mallard second. Gadwalls and shovellers were more numerous than last year. Thirteen hooded mergansers, 12 buffle-heads and 10 ruddy ducks were seen there November 22, and the first American golden-eyes were among the 1300 ducks of 13 species reported on that date (Hedges). The lake closed with the severe drop in January and since then only a few mallards, golden-eyes and American mergansers, which sought refuge on the nearby river, have been seen. At the Squaw Creek Refuge, Manager J. K. Walton, reports that about 400,000 ducks passed through the refuge, smaller numbers than last year. The peak concentration occurred December 1, when about 80,000 mallards, 25,000 pintails, 10,000 gadwalls, 5000 baldpates and smaller numbers of green-winged teal, black ducks, shovellers, redheads, canvas-backs, lesser scaup, buffle-heads and American mergansers were present. About 500 Canada, 500 blue, 250 lesser snow and a few white-fronted geese were on the refuge, November 1 (season high). White pelicans reached a maximum at 1500, October 10, smaller numbers than last year. From the eastern part of the state, E. K. Knapp reports a concentration of 80,000 ducks (species not mentioned) on November 17 on the Mississippi River,

near Grafton, Ill., a protected area.

Late shore-bird migrants were 24 long-billed dowitchers and 3 black-bellied plovers seen at Squaw Creek, October 10, and red-backed sandpipers at St. Louis on October 9 and 15 (Short).

Although the hawk migration was not conspicuous, wintering marsh hawks and eastern red-tails have been common and Cooper's hawk has been reported frequently. Krider's hawk has been present in normal numbers in the West, with one record as far east as Lebanon (Moore). There have been a few reports of Harlan's hawk and a western red-tailed hawk was closely observed about 15 miles west of Quivera, January 10. American rough-legged hawks and short-eared owls, common some winters, have not been reported this year.

Fox, white-throated, Lincoln's, song and Harris's sparrows passed through the region in normal numbers during October and early November, but very few have remained during the winter. Harris's sparrow, usually common, has not been seen in the Kansas City area since December 1. The extensive weed patches and vine tangles at Parkville have sheltered less than half the usual numbers of tree sparrows and slate-colored juncos. Only 2 fox sparrows, 1 white-throat and 1 Arctic towhee have been seen there this winter. In contrast, 25 white-crowned sparrows, January 17, and 8 swamp sparrows, December 20, are the largest numbers ever seen there in winter. Purple finches have been scarce. The only exception has been a report of 37 at Lebanon, December 25 (Moore). There have been no reports of pine siskins. Juncos with brownish backs and pinkish sides, occasionally seen in flocks of the slate-colored, have been tentatively identified as Shufeldt's. Juncos in this plumage have been observed this year at Sullivan (Moore), North Kansas City (Fay) and at Quivera Lake (Hedges). Shufeldt's junco is considered casual in Missouri.

Wintering robins and bluebirds have been frequent. Red-headed woodpeckers have been common in the oak woods, probably because of a bountiful acorn crop, and more yellow-bellied sapsuckers have been reported than for several years. Golden-crowned kinglets and brown creepers are unusually common. Red-

breasted nuthatches, quite uncommon in winter, have been observed in Kansas City (Mr. and Mrs. Cole).

Among the unusual may be mentioned a brown thrasher that came daily to a feeding station in the Kansas City area until January 12 (Hagaman). A red-shafted flicker was seen at Quivera, October 19 (Hedges) and 7 old-squaws were on the lake December 13 (several observers). The red-throated loon was recorded at Lake Park, Ill., November 21 (Short, *et al.*). A white-winged scoter (dead specimen) was found at Alton, Ill., December 10, and American scoters were observed there November 11 (Dale). Two snow buntings were seen at Lake Springfield, Ill., December 20 (Bonney, Robertson).—J. W. CUNNINGHAM and RUSSELL SPOTSWOOD, 4425 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.

MINNESOTA REGION

Reviewing the record for the past four months, it may be stated briefly that, since the end of October when winter was



ushered in on the 25th by a record near-blizzard all over the state, the winter has been an exceptionally long and severe one—continuous cold, much snow, high winds, and but few and brief mild spells. The record cold was in mid-January when

there were 106 unbroken hours below zero at Minneapolis, with 31° below at Minneapolis and 51° below reported at Little Fork. It has been a hard winter for wildlife and also for humans with the heating oil and gasoline drastically curtailed.

Mr. E. D. Swedenborg summarizes the winter conditions at Minneapolis as follows: "Considering the weather this winter, the bird life has been quite numerous and interesting. Two golden-crowned kinglets have been around my home all winter, feeding in the boulevard elms. Brown creepers have been present in sev-

eral places. At least 2 large flocks of red-wings, numbering over 100 individuals each, have remained, 1 flock along Purgatory Creek in Eden Prairie, the other along the Minnesota River in Nichols. Besides the usual common resident birds, which have been well represented, we have seen many tree sparrows, a few juncos and goldfinches, crows, and a rough-legged hawk. Most interesting was a group of at least 100 mallards near Shakopee on January 10 and 31. Nearby, over this open water, was a kingfisher on the 10th. The first horned larks were back on the fields on February 6, in sections where manure had been spread over the snow."

Mrs. Olin reports from Duluth under date of January 19: "For the past three days the minimum temperatures have been 26°, 24° and 27° below zero, with about 10 inches of snow. Shifting ice is in Lake Superior and several times there have been solid ice as far as I could see from the mouth of Lester River. Just now no ice is visible." Summarizing the bird reports in this and another letter dated December 30, Mrs. Olin states: "This has been the best fall and winter bird season I have yet known. Flocks of 50 to 100 starlings have been seen around all winter. There are more pine grosbeaks here than I have seen before and there are many Bohemian waxwings accompanied by a lesser number of cedar. I have been feeding the birds in a secluded, sheltered place in Lester Park and the regular visitors included many black-capped chickadees, 1 Hudsonian chickadee, 1 red-breasted nuthatch, downies, hairies, and 1 golden-crowned kinglet (3 seen on December 26) and lately only 1 of the 5 robins seen on the 26th. Miss Mary Elwell reports seeing 3 bluebirds at the Teachers College Campus on January 10, 11, and 12."

Other Interesting Items—golden plover, 1000, black-bellied plover, 100 (estimated); blue geese, 17; 1 magpie (R. M. Berthel, Lake Traverse, October 18-20). American egret, "Our records indicate a probable 10% increase during the summer of 1942. One seen as early as April 29, 1942. Three pairs nested and reared 8 young." (Mississippi River bottoms near Winona, Ray C. Steele, Superintendent, Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge). Raven, in Cook and Lake Counties, No-

vember 14-21, Mr. T. Surber, of the Minnesota Game and Fish Department, saw 29 ravens and stated that "In all probability the same birds were repeatedly seen but even at that, I believe more individual birds were observed than during the past twenty years put together. None of them appeared as wary as ravens usually are." Glaucous gulls, January 1: "Among 200 herring gulls in the Duluth Harbor, I counted 5 glaucous gulls." (Dr. Olga Lakela). White-winged scoter, January 16, 5 seen in Mississippi River, Gray Cloud Island below St. Paul (Brother Hubert Lewis). Double-crested cormorant, October 19, St. Paul, a migrating flock of 800-1000 (Rosenwinkel). Tufted titmouse, Marine-on-the-St. Croix, a pair wintering and feeding daily with the black-caps (Miss Edgar). Violet-green swallow, Rochester, October 25-6, a pair, positively identified by Dr. F. R. Keating (a most surprising and new record).

An apology is due from me in this place to Mr. Edgar P. Chance of England, who is now in America, for an unfortunate mis-statement in the last *Season* article as to Mr. Chance's explanation in his "Truth About the Cuckoo" of the way in which eggs are placed in domed nests by *Cuculus c. canorus*. In commenting as to how the cowbird might deposit its eggs in a nest in a hole, I inadvertently stated that Mr. Chance had said that the cuckoo backed in. This was wrong and quite naturally Mr. Chance wished it corrected. His letter of protest contained the following paragraph which I take the liberty of quoting: "I have never said or suggested anything of the kind! I have stated that after laying in the ordinary normal open nest the cuckoo backs out instead of turning around to fly out. The cuckoo lays into domed nests by clinging or fluttering facing the nest entrance and adjusting herself caterpillar-like (if you will) to the nest entrance—an operation or action no more difficult than the act of fertilization by any male bird."—THOMAS S. ROBERTS, Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

TEXAS COASTAL REGION

The Weather—The first three months of the period were unprecedentedly sunny and pleasant. A few frosts occurred, but



no real freezes. The first bad weather, with rain and a cold north wind, came December 27, but soon passed. On the night of January 18 the temperature suddenly dropped to 18°; but skies remained bright, and by January 22 the temperature had climbed to 80°. On the night of January 25 another cold snap tumbled the temperature into the 20's, but soon passed. The entire period was abnormally dry.

General Conditions—Birds fared much better than did bird-observers. The former were generally more numerous than at any time since the great cold spell of January, 1940; but the latter decreased alarmingly. According to Captain of Wardens, Everett Dawson, ducks and geese were exceedingly abundant over the state; but until late December they seemed less numerous than usual along much of the Texas coast. This latter fact is attributable to the warm weather which allowed the birds to linger inland longer than usual; to the new system of government-built lakes and ponds throughout the cattle region of southern and southwestern Texas; and, perhaps, to airplane activity along the coast. Records were everywhere inconsistent. For example: mallards were the most abundant ducks at Cove in December, but pintails in January, while the reverse was true at Eagle Lake, 70 miles west of Houston. Gadwalls were uncommon at Cove, but plentiful in several other regions; baldpate were numerous everywhere. Ring-necked ducks, shovellers, and especially green-winged teal were universally abundant. On the other hand, the golden-eye, red-breasted merganser, redhead, and scaup were less plentiful than usual. Inland shooting clubs, and those along the lower coast, reported almost twice as many ducks killed this year as last. All the geese, except the Hutchin's, increased in numbers this season. Loons were relatively scarce; phenomenally, there were no coots at Cove, but the species was plentiful elsewhere; Wilson's snipe were abnormally abundant at Rockport; hawks, especially red-tails and marsh hawks, were everywhere. Most of the small perching birds seemed to be completely

recovered from the disaster of 1940. Myrtle warblers, ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets, blue-gray gnatcatchers, bluebirds, hermit thrushes, pipits, blue-headed vireos, and goldfinches made a most satisfactory showing. The white-throated sparrow was the one normally common small bird that was disappointingly scarce.

Migrations—The warm autumn had no perceptible delaying effect on the departure dates of summer species. Some departure dates (all about normal) follow: chimney swift at Houston, October 17; ruby-throated hummingbird at Sheldon, October 11; scissor-tailed flycatcher at Houston, October 17, and at Galveston, October 31; bank swallow at Galveston, October 17. Arrival dates of a few of the small winter visitors (yellow-bellied sapsucker, phoebe, brown creeper, hermit thrush, both the kinglets) seem to have been delayed from ten days to a month; but an increasingly poor coverage due to tire and gasoline restrictions may account for the discrepancies.

Many changes in the numbers of individuals were noted. Really large numbers of ducks first appeared in the upper coastal region in the last ten days of December; pied-billed grebes and Florida gallinules disappeared from the Houston parks during the cold weather of late January, but returned at the very end of the month; cardinals grew steadily more abundant during late December and early January; so did the rusty blackbird at Cove; long-billed marsh wrens were common at Cove throughout December, but were not seen after January 3; robins appeared for the first time in great numbers in the Galveston Bay region on January 30.

Unusual Records—Mexican grebes remained at Rockport and the Aransas Refuge throughout the period. McKay made a first December record of a pigeon hawk at Cove, December 24, and a first winter record of a spotted sandpiper, December 21. A solitary sandpiper on Galveston Island, October 31, was six weeks late; a scissor-tailed flycatcher at Rockport and a white ibis at Cove on December 6, were a month late. A pair of eastern kingbirds at Rockport, January 31, was two months early. The two prize records were a surf scoter killed at Rockport, November 4, and identified by Mrs. Hagar

(later by Ludlow Griscom); and a groove-billed ani seen and heard by Williams near Houston on December 19.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Tex.*

SAN FRANCISCO REGION

Bird watchers who could be in the field this season found remarkably favorable weather. The rains, beginning on October

10, came at ends of fairly long intervals of clear, warm, and mild weather. Northward in the area, rainfall has been greater than normal, though less than a year ago. Toward the south there has been a marked deficiency and, except for

one storm, there was very little run-off in the creeks. Also there was very little growth in the vegetation. For birds, however, the winter has been favorable, and there is already much evidence of nesting activity among the resident species.

Records of birds on the water continue to be prominent, but many more observers would find profitable watching along the shore and on marshes. Eared grebe, Lake Merced, 6 on October 12 (Mrs. Stephens); pied-billed grebe, Carmel River-mouth Lagoon, on October 5, at least 3 young and 2 adults, an adult feeding striped-headed begging young which swam up to and took an object from bill of the adult (W.); white pelican, Dumbarton Bridge, about 400 on October 2, none on October 18 (Mrs. Allen), Los Banos Refuge, 100, January 9 to 13 (Harwell); double-crested cormorant, Cypress Point, 1, January 20 (W.); snowy heron, Carmel River-mouth, 1, October 20 (W.), Los Banos Refuge, 3, January 9 to 13 (H.); American bittern, Carmel River-mouth, 1, October 26 (W.); white-faced glossy ibis, Los Banos Refuge, 15, January 9 to 13 (H.); whistling swan, Volta, 5 miles north of Los Banos, 130 on January 13 (H.); black brant, Cypress Point, 50 in flock passing southward, November 25 (W.), Los Banos Refuge, 1, January 9 (H.).



Ducks in general were less numerous on San Leandro Bay and Lake Merritt than usual. None were seen at Dumbarton Bridge on November 26 and 27 (Kelly). In the vicinity of Stockton, the scarcity of ducks and geese has been notable. Mr. Sampson reported this to Mr. Harwell, adding that no one there had seen cranes, swans or white pelicans this winter. There had been few geese, and no white ones. The scarcity of water and the few flooded fields may have accounted for this absence. On or about December 23 a great influx of ducks came into the Los Banos Refuge from the north, many of them shovellers. The flight was about a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide. Soon after that date the birds began to scatter or to leave the region (Harwell). A winter record for cinnamon teal was of 20 at Los Banos Refuge, January 9 to 13 (H.). The ruddy duck was unusually scarce at the Carmel River-mouth through the early winter (Williams). Seven hooded mergansers were seen at Los Banos Refuge in January (H.).

Much less is known about the occurrence and seasonal behavior of land birds in this region than of the water birds. And no travel is required to see and record such significant items as the following: turkey vulture, near Alvarado, October 6 (Allen); road-runner, near Sequoia Park in Oakland hills, December 27 (Seibert); tree swallow, Carmel River-mouth, 5 on January 28 (Williams), Los Banos Refuge, present January 9 to 13 (Harwell); raven, Golden Gate Park, 2 on October 11 (Stephens); red-breasted nuthatch, Carmel, 1 at same place from September through January (W.); winter wren, Golden Gate Park, November 21 (Kelly); long-billed marsh wren, Lake Merced, only record for that locality in years, October 11 (Stephens); mockingbird, Diablo Country Club, November 3, Palo Alto, November 27, University of California Campus, January 31 (Kelly); varied thrush, Alameda, October 16 (K.), Carmel, October 16 (W.); Townsend's solitaire, Berkeley, 1 watched for a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour picking off termites as they came out of wood, November 18 (A.); blue-gray gnatcatcher, Leona Heights, Oakland, December 6 and 21, January 24 (Seibert); slate-colored junco, Mills College, 1 on December 27 and 2 on January 24, in flocks of Oregon juncos (Seibert); white-throated sparrow, Hastings Reservation, 1 trapped

on January 26 at the place where originally banded on February 26, 1941, and subsequently observed on February 26, 1942, and November 1, 1942; Lincoln's sparrow, Carmel River-mouth, first of the season on October 27 (W.), Oakland, 7 at one place on December 27 (Seibert).

An obvious conclusion from the following observations is that these species and other residents are already far along with their nesting. This invites close study through the spring, whether it continues favorable or not. Interruptions to the nesting program are as much worth watching as accelerations. Anna's hummingbird, Berkeley, a female finishing a nest on January 24, was brooding on the 28th (Sumner); yellow-billed magpie, Hastings Reservation, birds entering and leaving an old nest on December 15 were greatly excited, pairs were seen carrying sticks to new or old nests almost daily after December 20, even through rain, and once in the snow (Linsdale); bush-tit, Alameda, a completed nest on January 10, first feeding of young in the nest on the 20th (Hewettson, Harwell); Bewick's wren, Carmel, a noticeable revival of song from a constantly observed individual came in the second week in January (Williams); Oregon junco, Carmel, song and indication of territorial behavior noted for first time this year on January 18 (W.).

All observers this winter report an abundance of varied thrushes and presence of the species in many new spots. On November 1, in Boulder Creek, Mrs. Allen noted them as abundant and feeding on the ground along a brook and under manzanitas, as well as in madrones. At Berkeley, on December 5, she saw 4 eating toyon berries. By December 10, they became less abundant in the garden, where they had been feeding on rotting acorns, and they were seen about toyon berries near the mouth of the canyon. At the end of the month, back at Boulder Creek, she found this bird everywhere in the valley and on the hill. Between 200 and 300 were feeding mainly on the ground, especially on rotting acorns. Mushrooms were very abundant and many had been eaten, but she could not make sure that the varied thrushes ate them. Here is a bird abundant and elusive enough to deserve more attention than it has had from bird watchers.—JEAN M. LINDALE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

Dry, mild weather continued almost uninterrupted until January, when a ten-day rainy spell reached flash-flood proportions on the



22nd, doing considerable damage to nest-cover in mountain canyons. The storm brought the season's rainfall to above normal and filled lowland

sloughs barely in time for some benefit to migrant water birds.

December brought many seafoal to Santa Monica Bay, probably due to the abundance of fish. All 3 loons in medium numbers; 540 western grebes in 4 rafts, December 8 (Hastings); 150 brown pelicans, December 6, and 73 on the 30th, as well as a large influx of surf scoters, December 26 at Redondo Beach (White). A sooty shearwater and 1 Xantus's (Scripps's) murrelet close to shore under Mugu pier, November 30 (Eckelberry, Kent); 1 ancient murrelet caught on fishing line at Malibu pier, December 4 (Ida M. Smith).

Hérons—Great blues and the 2 egrets especially numerous in late October along the Orange County coast and south; 150 American and 300 snowy egrets at Carlsbad, October 31, also 9 white-faced glossy and 1 wood ibis.

Ducks—Shovellers and pintails common in coastal lagoons in October, but far below normal since—about 50% off at Bolsa Chica. Green-winged and cinnamon teal in good numbers—best ratio to normal of any ducks. Hooded merganser, 1 immature male (?) in December and 1 female all through December and January at Lincoln Park, Los Angeles (many observers); greater scaup, 2 with lessers at Lincoln Park, January 9 (A. Berry); blue-winged teal, 2 at Playa del Rey, December 20 (K.); wood duck, 3 at San Gabriel River Sanctuary, December 8 (E.) and 1 female on small pond at Forest Lawn, Glendale, December 17-22 (Daugherty); American golden-eye, 2 males at Santa Monica, December 13 and 17, and at

Malibu, December 26 (H.), 1 male at Baldwin Lake, on the 27th (Murdock), and 3 females (this species ?) at Malibu, November 30 (E., K.)—altogether a record year for this species.

Hawks—A late flock of turkey vultures, 50 near Carlsbad, November 1. White-tailed kites in several new locations, 1 pair near Los Angeles. Three pigeon hawks, 3 prairie falcons, and 2 ferruginous rough-legs reported from the coastal slope, and 1 rare American rough-leg in the San Diego Christmas Count, December 21. A greater rarity was a Harris's hawk, near Carlsbad, October 31 to November 6 (Stultz, Eckelberry, Daugherty, Groner, Kent).

Shore birds—Most notable were: 1 Baird's sandpiper, Playa del Rey, October 4 (S., D.) and 61 + mountain plovers near Pt. Mugu, November 30 (E., K.). Black-necked stilts stayed late, several to November and 3 at Ventura Game Reserve, December 12 (S.). Avocets, common everywhere along the coast, but 1200 (!!) at Carlsbad, November 1, tops all previous records (Stultz, et al.).

Gulls, Terns, etc.—Wintering gulls below normal numbers until January, except Bonaparte's (700 at Playa del Rey, December 25); very few Heermann's after October. Large flocks of Forster's terns at Balboa, October 25, at Mugu, November 30, and 400 at del Rey, December 20, with 2 common terns carefully identified among them (Kent). Hundreds of royal terns northwest of Santa Monica, November 30; a few Caspians from October 18 to December 20. Parasitic jaeger, 1 immature with gulls on the beach at Redondo, October 1 and November 17 (White) and 2 jaegers (probably parasitic) at del Rey, November 30 (K., E.).

Land Birds—Lewis's woodpeckers very scarce in contrast to last year. Red-breasted nuthatch in the lowlands at San Diego, November 28 (Gander), Ojai, October 25-January 15 (Griffith) and Santa Barbara, October 17 to February (Rett). Wintering Townsend's warblers arrived at Santa Barbara, October 6, and several recorded later from the Los Angeles area. A flock of 500 cowbirds, largest wintering flock known, south of Los Angeles, January 1 (Cogswell).

Some late dates for summer or migrant species: Costa's hummingbird, October 25 at Lakeside (Gander); phainopepla, De-

ember 13 (Shuart) at Redondo Beach; ash-throated flycatcher, November 16-20 at Pasadena (Cogswell); barn swallow, October 11, 12, and 31 (Ventura County to San Diego); Calaveras and black-throated gray warblers, November 8 at San Gabriel River Sanctuary (K.), the latter also in same locality, January 10 (W. Kimbel) and in Pasadena, January 1 to 5 (Cogswell). The green-tailed towhee at S. G. R. S., found by Miss Rusterholz, October 11, was present to at least December 13 (Mrs. Robt. Lewis).

Early mating activity in January was evidenced by band-tailed pigeons and Chinese spotted doves in many nuptial flights, Nuttall's and downy woodpeckers drumming; road-runner, red-wings, both towhees, and song sparrows all singing. That inveterate first nester, Anna's hummingbird, after courting in December, had 1 nest in Los Angeles in mid-January, and another with eggs at Santa Barbara at the end of January. Many northwestward flights of geese, January 23-28, mostly white-fronted in the Pasadena area (250 in three high, non-uniform V's on the 24th).

Rarities were: White-winged dove, 1 near Pasadena, January 19 (Cogswell); red-naped sapsucker, 4 separate birds reported in Los Angeles area October to February; winter wren, 1 at Pasadena, November 16 (Stultz); Townsend's fox sparrow, 1 banded by Father Severin at Santa Barbara, December 31; and a painted redstart seen by many observers at W. I. Allen's banding station in Altadena, October 12 into February, the same bird previously banded and recorded in January, March and September of 1942, second record for the species on the coastal slope.

Mountain Areas—One report each month

of the period from Big Bear Lake shows the ever changing waterfowl population there. In mid-October Mr. Kent found several thousand ducks, mostly pintail, green-winged teal, and ruddies, with some baldpates, shovellers, and a few mallards, gadwalls (4), redheads, canvas-backs, and lesser scaup; but after four days of hunting, practically all had left. On November 15, there were more hunters than ducks, but on December 27, with shallow water frozen, there were 3100 canvas-backs and 250 American mergansers; baldpates and scaup were numerous again but few of any other species. Several semi-rarities on Baldwin Lake were climaxed with 7 whistling swans (photographs secured by J. Murdock). In mid-January, with ice more extensive, the Combys noted only a few hundred canvas-backs, 50 American mergansers, 12 ring-necks, 3 shovellers, and the ubiquitous coot, which has, however, numbered only about half of last year's mark here.

Other interesting records from Big Bear: pigeon hawk, 2 in mid-October; ferruginous rough-leg, 1 adult in October, 1 immature, November 15; bald eagle, 1, January 16-20 (also 1 at Pt. Mugu on coast, December 12, Stultz); Wilson's snipe, flock of 27 on a frozen meadow, December 27; 10 violet-green swallows and several orange-crowned (subspec. *lutescent*) warblers in October, far past normal departure time for the mountains; 1 cactus woodpecker in pines at the remarkable altitude of 6800 feet, November 15; slate-colored junco, 1 at same spot as in December, 1941. Best record was that of 12 evening grosbeaks at the edge of a meadow south of Big Bear Lake in mid-October (K.).—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, 3807 Sierra Grande St., Pasadena, Calif.

A summary of all of the foregoing reports appears in this issue of AUDUBON MAGAZINE under the title of "The Changing Seasons" by Ludlow Griscom.

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